

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Report on Sector Group Activity

1. Background

- 1.1. This report summarises the activities undertaken by the seven sector groups for the academic year 2008/09.

2. Digital, ICT and Print (DICTP)

- 2.1. This sector group is led by the Northern Technology Institute at Leeds Metropolitan University. It currently has fifty nine members which include representatives from a number of strategic organisations e.g. e-skills UK (SSC), Skillset (SSC), LSC, Digital 20/20, and the British Printing Industry Federation.
- 2.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:
- WBL Modules - completed (new assessment strategies developed and implemented)
 - New Digital Enterprise Bite Sized Modules
 - New FD E-Technologies
 - New FD Computer Networking
 - New FD Commercial Photography (revision of HND) (Joint activity with the Culture, Sport, Media and the Arts (CSMA) sector group)
 - New BA Digital Photography (joint activity with CSMA sector group)
 - New FD Interactive Media (Web Design)
 - Staff Work Placement Model
 - Creative Entrepreneurship Project (joint activity with the CSMA and Leadership, Management, Innovation and Enterprise (LMIE) sector groups)
- 2.3. The FD E-Technologies and FD Computer Networking developments are particularly significant as they are utilising the WYLLN Generic FD framework developed by the Business Services sector group during 2007/08. The FD E-Technologies for example, which is being developed through collaborative working between seven partner institutions and nine employers, is being mapped into the new e-skills UK PROCOM standards and will be endorsed by e-skills UK and Foundation Degree Forward.
- 2.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
- Creative Networks (joint activity with Leeds College of Art and Design, the CMSA sector group and the WYLLN central team)
 - Higher Apprenticeship Event

- Leadership and Management in the Digital Industries (joint activity with the LMIE sector group)
 - Sponsorship of an award at the Skillset Games Tournament
 - Women in Technical Roles Event
- 2.5. Creative Networks continues to provide WYLLN partners with a very successful monthly forum for engaging with a wide range of organisations from across the digital, media, creative and performing arts sectors. The 2008/09 programme attracted on average 104 attendees per monthly meeting. The DICTP sector group have utilised contacts made through Creative Networks to support their curriculum development, marketing, and sector group meeting activities.
- 2.6. The DICTP sector group has a detailed work plan in place and has achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009.
- 2.7. Following a review and forward planning meeting with the sector lead institution, it was agreed that the main driver for the Northern Technology Institute would be the development of third stream income for Leeds Metropolitan University rather than partnership working. As a consequence it was felt that it would not be possible for the sector group to continue beyond the main period of WYLLN funding. However, partner involvement with strategic partners would seek to be continued through other initiatives, such as Digital 2020.

3. Leadership, Management, Innovation and Enterprise (LMIE)

- 3.1. This sector group is led by Wakefield College. It currently has twenty six members which include representatives from a number of strategic organisations e.g. Chartered Management Institute, Leeds Chamber, Kirklees Local Authority, Bradford District Care Trust, and Skills for Care (SSC). The sector officer is actively working with each of the other WYLLN sector groups on curriculum development and/or marketing activities.
- 3.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:
- First at Work – in-company delivery and accreditation
 - EBTA Trial Activity with CMS Consultancy
 - New FD Management for Social Care (joint activity with the HSCEY sector group) - completed
 - New FD Management for Children’s Care (joint activity with the HSCEY sector group) - completed
 - New FD Leadership and Management Framework (joint activity with Business Services sector group utilising the WYLLN Generic FD framework)
 - Community Development and Leadership – Bite Size Modules
 - Progression Agreements with SMEs
 - New FD Social Enterprise Leadership - completed

- New Leadership & Business Modules - Construction Context (joint activity with the Construction & Built Environment and Business Services sector groups)
 - Creative Entrepreneurship Project (joint activity with the CSMA and DICTP sector groups)
 - Multi-entry/Multi-exit Progression Agreements across sector group members
- 3.3. Three of the foundation degree curriculum developments undertaken by the sector group have now been validated. The FD Social Enterprise Leadership has been validated by the University of Bradford and will be delivered from September 2009. The FD Management for Social Care and FD Management for Children's Care have been validated by Leeds Metropolitan University. Wakefield College and Calderdale College are planning to deliver these FDs from September 2009. These two FDs have been developed in collaboration with Skills for Care and the Children's Workforce Development Council.
- 3.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
- Open Space Event (over 80 employers in attendance)
 - Leadership and Management in the Digital Industries (joint activity with the DICTP sector group)
 - Women into Leadership (joint activity with the DICTP, Construction and Built Environment, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing sector groups, and the UK Resource Centre for Women)
- 3.5. The LMIE sector group has a detailed work plan in place and has achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009.
- 3.6. Following a sector review and forward planning meeting with the sector lead institution, it was agreed that there are a number of potential advantages to be gained from the sector group continuing post WYLLN funding. However, a number of practical difficulties and challenges were identified which require further exploration by the lead institution. It was agreed that the lead institution will explore and develop a business case and model to sustain the group part-funded by the Network as part of its fourth year extension, if approved.

4. Culture, Media, Sport & the Arts; Hospitality, Tourism, and Leisure (CSMA)

- 4.1. This sector group is led by the Faculty of Arts and Society at Leeds Metropolitan University. It currently has eighty nine members which include representatives from a wide range of strategic partners e.g. Yorkshire Forward, LSC, Train to Gain, six SSCs, Arts Council England, Sport England - Yorkshire, PODIUM, Screen Yorkshire, West Yorkshire Playhouse, and West Yorkshire Tourism. The sector officer has been invited to become a member of a number of groups organised by the strategic members' e.g. regional operations group of the NSA for Sport and Active Leisure.
- 4.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:

- Postgraduate Sports Development Integrated Model
 - Creative Enterprise Case Studies
 - New FD Ceramics
 - New FD Commercial Photography (revision of HND) (Joint activity with DICTP sector group)
 - New BA Digital Photography (joint activity with DICTP sector group)
 - Creative Pathways – undergraduate through to masters level study transition support programme
 - Masters Market Research for Sport Development, Coaching & Sports Management
 - Transforming Skills: Professional Development for Museum Staff and Volunteers in a University Context
 - New Art and Design Level 4 Progression Modules for two 14-19 Diplomas lines – Creative and Media and Manufacturing
 - Fire/Smoke & Evacuation training for staff at Park Lane at KLM's Training facilities in Amsterdam Schipol
 - West Yorkshire Dance Leadership Project
 - Research & publication on festivals and events education, training & CPD across Yorkshire
 - Creative Entrepreneurship Project (joint activity with the DICTP and LMIE sector groups)
- 4.3. The curriculum developments reflect the diversity of the sub-sectors within the group, address progression and learning opportunities from level 3 to masters level, and are encouraging collaborative working between HE providers, employers, strategic bodies and the voluntary and community sectors.
- 4.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
- Creative Networks (joint activity with Leeds College of Art and Design, the DICTP sector group and the WYLLN central team)
 - West Yorkshire Sports Employer Conference
 - West Yorkshire Tourism Partnership Conference
 - Museum Engagement Event (part of the curriculum development project)
 - West Yorkshire Creative & Cultural Courses with Employer Engagement brochure (joint activity with the DICTP sector group)
- 4.5. The CSMA sector group has a detailed work plan in place and has achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009.

- 4.6. Following a review and forward planning meeting with the sector lead institution, it was agreed that the position it has established with the many strategic bodies is a major benefit to HE providers in West Yorkshire. With initiatives such as the 2012 Olympics, partners would be disadvantaged if the sector group was not to continue post WYLLN funding. It was agreed to explore other models to sustain the partnership part-funded by the Network as part of its fourth year extension, if approved.

5. Construction and the Built Environment (CBE)

- 5.1. This sector group is led by Leeds College of Building. It currently has thirty five members which include representatives from a range of strategic partners e.g. five SSCs, two professional bodies, UK Resource Centre for Women, West Yorkshire Building Control Alliance and employers such as West Yorkshire Police, ASDA, Construction Leeds and N.G.Bailey.
- 5.2. The sector group has established excellent working relationships with the SSCs and professional bodies. This is exemplified by the recent approach made by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) to the sector group in regard to a) seeking its advice and support to work with local colleges, universities and HEIs to introduce the opportunity for students to gain Eng.Tech status as part of their HNC/HND studies, and b) to establish a regional group for course leaders delivering civil engineering courses within colleges, universities and HEIs in order to enable the sharing of practice, professional discussion, and to discuss progression issues.
- 5.3. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:
- New Leadership & Business Modules - Construction Context (joint activity with the LMIE and Business Services sector groups)
 - New Environmental Modules
 - New FD Sustainable Construction
 - EBTA Trial Activity with Building Control Alliance
 - New FD 3D Architectural Interiors
 - New FD Architectural Technology
 - New FD Construction Studies
 - New HND/FD Building Services
 - New HND Construction
 - New HNC Civil Engineering
 - New HNC Construction
 - New FD Facilities Management - Distance Learning
 - New MSc Environmental Engineering
- 5.2. A number of the curriculum developments listed above have been driven by the need to develop progression opportunities for learners. The sector group has identified

gaps in HE provision in terms of level 3 to level 4 progression (full and part time routes), and the locality of provision. Perhaps the most striking example is that for building services. Currently there is no higher education opportunity for building services across Yorkshire and the Humber. Learners wishing to progress have to go to institutions in Liverpool, Preston or Newcastle.

- 5.3. Another main driver for curriculum developments has been the growing emphasis for the construction sector to engage with the sustainability and environmental agendas.
- 5.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
 - Women into Leadership Conference (joint activity with the DICTP, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and LMIE sector groups, and the UK Resource Centre for Women)
 - Green Vision Conference - Demonstrating Approaches to Sustainability in Construction & the Built Environment
 - “A Successful Partnership Model for the 14-19 Diploma Construction & Built Environment” Conference
- 5.6 The CBE Sector Group and Construction Knowledge Exchange (CKE) based at Leeds Metropolitan University earlier this year successfully bid for funding to manage and deliver “Women Building Links” across Yorkshire and the Humber. The aim of “Women Building Links” is to provide access to training, networking and other support activities for women working in the construction and built environment industry in the Yorkshire and Humber region. It also provides a valuable source of information for women wishing to enter a career within the construction industry. A launch event ‘Putting the Foundations in Place’ for the programme will be held on the 18th June 2009.
- 5.7. The CBE sector group has a detailed work plan in place and has achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009.
- 5.8. Following a review and forward planning meeting with the sector lead institution, it was recognised that the sector not only had achieved well, but had created a partnership with SSCs and other strategic organisations that had really impacted on progression opportunities and the new challenges the sector is facing. It was agreed that there would be a distinct advantage in exploring ways in which the sector could continue post WYLLN funding.

6. Business Services

- 6.1. This sector group is led by Leeds City College - Park Lane Campus. It currently has thirty two members which include representatives from a number of strategic partners e.g. three SSCs, and one professional association.
- 6.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:

- New BA Top - Up Degrees (Business, Retail, Logistics and Distribution) to provide progression routes from the four FDs developed and validated during 07/08 using the WYLLN FD Generic Framework
 - Teaching resources to support the delivery from 09/10 of the FD Retail (developed and validated in 07/08)
 - E-learning materials to support the delivery of the four PPD modules common to the four FDs validated during 07/08
 - Development and implementation of an e-portfolio to support the delivery and assessment of the foundation degrees. The e-portfolio is currently being used by one of the college members for its delivery of the FD Business to work - based learners. The e-portfolio will be rolled out to other institutions delivering the FDs from September 2009.
 - The e-portfolio developments were presented and demonstrated at the recent JISC regional conference and an article will appear in the July edition of the national LLN Newsletter.
- 6.3. This year the sector group's marketing and employer engagement activities have been focused on promoting the foundation degrees developed during 07/08. Individual institutions have engaged in a range of activities with employers and intermediaries.
- 6.4. The Business Services sector group has a detailed work plan in place. However it has not achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009. The short fall is to the amount of £1,915. This is mainly due to two curriculum development not being progressed as a consequence of staff changes within the institution due to lead the developments. It is proposed that the roll forward funding for the sector group be reduced by the amount of the shortfall and that the funds are reallocated to other WYLLN activity.
- 6.5. Following a review and forward planning meeting with the sector lead institution, it was agreed that while the sector had been successful in meeting its targets, the active involvement of the whole of the WYLLN partnership, particularly the universities, was not there and as such there would be little advantage in continuing with the sector group post WYLLN funding.

7. Health, Social Care and Early Years (HSCEY)

- 7.1. This sector group is led by the University of Bradford. It currently has thirty six members which include representatives from a number of strategic partners e.g. Skills for Care (SSC), Skills for Health (SSC), Strategic Health Authority, Bradford District Care Trust, Leeds Care Trust.
- 7.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:
- New Professional Skills Module - completed
 - New FD Advocacy Module - completed

- New Bridging Module to support the transition of level 3 learners into Early Years/Children Support related level 4 provision
 - New FD Domestic Violence Modules
 - New FD Management for Social Care (joint activity with the LMIE sector group)
 - New FD Management for Children's Care (joint activity with the LMIE sector group)
 - Suite of curriculum developments to support the introduction of the new level 4 Assistant Practitioner role to national health services across the region. The development work is being undertaken in association with the Strategic Health Authority, West Yorkshire Care Trusts and Skills for Health.
- 7.3. The opportunities for collaborative working in regard to the introduction of the Associate Practitioner role is at the earlier stages of development however the message coming from the strategic partners is that they definitely want wherever possible a coordinated approach to developing the sub-regions' HE response to this workforce development agenda and they want to build in progression opportunities, into and on from, any new provision developed.
- 7.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
- Participation in the Skills for Care Training Providers Conference
 - Participation in the Skills for Care Social Work Professional Practice Conference
 - NHS Workforce Development Seminar
 - Every Child Matters Consultation Event
- 7.5. The HSCEY sector group has a detailed work plan in place. However it has not achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009. The short fall is to the amount of £8,858. This is due to the delay in the work plan activities being identified and agreed, which in turn was as a consequence of the sector group not having a sector officer in post until November 2008. It is proposed that the roll forward funding for the sector group be reduced by the amount of the shortfall and that the funds are reallocated to other WYLLN activity.
- 7.6. Following a sector review and forward planning meeting with the lead institution, it was agreed that while the sector had taken time to become established, the partnership that has been created, the work on the introduction of the Associate Practitioner role, and the need of strategic partners for a coordinated approach, suggest that partners would be seriously disadvantaged if the sector group failed to continue post WYLLN funding. It was agreed to explore ways in which it may continue.

8. Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and Related Industrial Chemistry (AEM)

- 8.1. This sector group is led by the University of Huddersfield. It currently has nineteen members which include representatives for a number of strategic organisations e.g. SEMTA (SSC), ICME, NAMTEC, IET (professional bodies), Yorkshire Forward, Electronics Yorkshire.
- 8.2. The curriculum developments being funded by the group are:
- New FD Engineering Technology - completed
 - New FD and BEng Top - Up Electrical and Electronic Engineering - completed
 - New FD Casting Technology – completed
 - New FD Applied Science
 - New FD Powder Technology
 - New FD Packaging
 - New MSc Mechanical Engineering Design
 - New MSc Engineering Management
- 8.3. Four of the curriculum developments involve collaborative working between colleges and universities and the sector officer reports that genuine partnership and mutual understanding has been developed between group members.
- 8.4. The marketing and employer engagement events funded and/or delivered/due to be delivered this academic year by the group are:
- STEM – To Infinity and Beyond Conference
 - Launch of Degree to Enhance Performance - FD Casting Technology
 - Designing New Products for the Future Seminar
 - Metals Manufacturing: The Skills Landscape 2008 and Beyond Conference
 - Developing Business and Professional Potential
 - Building a Foundation for the Future Seminar
 - Inspiring the Next Generation of Engineers and Manufacturers Careers Conference
 - Sharing Best Practice on New Ways of Learning Seminar
 - “Casting” a Firm Foundation for New Curriculum Development
- 8.5. In addition to the above events the sector group has engaged employers and intermediaries through the production of a number of news articles for professional journals and magazines, and by attending professional body/association meetings. To date the group has engaged with over 400 employers.
- 8.6. The AEM sector group has a detailed work plan in place and has achieved the expenditure target set for June 2009.

- 8.7. Following a review and forward planning meeting with the lead institution, it was agreed that although the sector group has performed well there are other partnerships that duplicate the role of the sector group. Without WYLLN funding driving the development initiatives it was felt that there would be no advantage in continuing with the sector group.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Each of the sector groups has made significant progress, particularly over the last six months, towards the delivery of their work plan and targets. Effective planning, monitoring, accounting, and reporting processes are now in place for each sector group. This is enabling more timely interventions to take place where inactivity, slippage in timescales and/or under spend may be occurring.
- 9.2. The sector groups are due to submit an updated work plan by the 22nd June 2009. These work plans will detail the activity and anticipated expenditure profiles for 2009/10. The work plans will continue to be centrally reviewed on a quarterly basis. Reports on sector activity and finance will be presented to the next Board meeting.
- 9.3. For some of the sectors, there would be a real advantage in them continuing post WYLLN funding. It is proposed that during the third year of the project, sustainability plans are developed for the HSCEY, CBE, CSMA and LMIE sector groups, which will include some limited WYLLN funding for the fourth year extension, if approved. The sustainability plans developed by the four named sector groups will be presented to the Board meeting in January 2010 for consideration and approval.